

How to get out of vi

Part 2:

How to stay in vi and live

Wolfram Rösler

How to exit this bus?



The vi Editor

If you know vi, it's the fastest editor in the world.

If you don't, it'll drive you insane.

History

1969 Unix

1969 First moon landing

1976 vi

1982 Compact Disc

1983 C++

1984 Macintosh

1985 Windows

1991 Linux

1991 vim

2000 Wikipedia

2007 iPhone

2019 There are still people who don't know how to exit vi

Why still use it?

- Ubiquitous
- Common default
- No GUI required
- Edits anything
- Very fast
- Very few keystrokes needed
- Makes you look like a wizard

Warm-up: Text input

i	Insert at cursor position
a	Insert after cursor position
I	Add at beginning of current line
A	Add at end of current line
o	Add new line below
O	Add new line above

Press *Esc* after entering new text

Single letter commands

(not a complete list!)

<i>Arrow keys</i>	Move cursor
w	Move to next word
f _x	Move to next <i>x</i>
%	Move to matching)] }
n	Repeat last search
x	Delete character under cursor
r _x	Replace character with <i>x</i>

Can combine with counter

x	Delete character under cursor
10x	Delete 10 characters
w	Move to next word
3w	Advance three words
f,	Move to next comma
4f,	Move to 4 th next comma
r=	Replace character with equal sign
6r=	Replace six chars with equal signs

Can combine with commands

dd	Delete line
cc	Change line (finish with <i>Esc</i>)
10dd	Delete 10 lines
dw	Delete word
cw	Change word
d5w	Delete five words
df ,	Delete until next comma
c%	Change up to matching brace

The single greatest command of all

- Repeat last command

Finally: How to exit vi

ZZ	Save and exit
:X <i>Enter</i>	Save and exit
:wq <i>Enter</i>	Save and exit
:q <i>Enter</i>	Quit if nothing was changed
:q! <i>Enter</i>	Quit, discard changes

How the IP editing job was done

<code>/127</code> <i>Enter</i>	Go to beginning of IP
<code>cf1</code>	Change until end of IP
<code>localhost</code> <i>Esc</i>	Replace IP by host name
<code>n</code>	Repeat search
<code>.</code>	Repeat change
<code>n.n.n.</code>	until all IPs are done
<code>ZZ</code>	Save and exit

Resources

About vi <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vi>

About vim [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vim_\(text_editor\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vim_(text_editor))

vi cheat sheet <https://duckduckgo.com/?q=vi+cheat+sheet&iax=1>

vi Tutorial <https://www.tutorialspoint.com/unix/unix-vi-editor.htm>

5 Minute Introduction <http://heather.cs.ucdavis.edu/~matloff/UnixAndC/Editors/ViIntro.html>

Where vi came from <https://twobithistory.org/2018/08/05/where-vim-came-from.html>

Pro vim tips <https://itsfoss.com/pro-vim-tips/>

Interview with Bill Joy, creator of vi http://xahlee.info/comp/interview_with_bill_joy.html